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Julie Nguyen

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Challener, et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: December 8, 2003

For: EFFICIENT WAVEGUIDE COUPLER
FOR DATA RECORDING
TRANSDUCER

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents are also submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☒ Within three months of the application filing date or before receipt of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
 - ☐ A fee is required. A check for payment of the fees set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is attached.
 - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below; accordingly, no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After receipt of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. A check for payment of the fees set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) are provided herein.

The undersigned declares that:

- ☐ Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

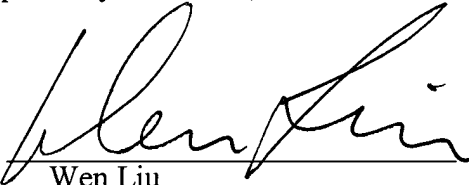
The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required by this statement to **Deposit Account Number 501288** referencing docket no. 1158/202.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

Dated: December 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date	December 8, 2003
First Named Inventor	Challener et al
Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	1158/202

Sheet 1 of 1

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1.	US- 6,282,345	08-28-2001	Schimpe	
	2.	US- 6,253,003	06-26-2001	Nakamura	
	3.	US- 5,930,434	07-27-1999	Mowry, et al.	
	4.	US- 2003/0053756	03-20-2003	Lam, et al.	
	5.	US- 2003/0048992	03-13-2003	Lundqvist	
	6.	US- 2002/0039469	04-04-2002	Jeong, et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
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Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND

TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.